

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR

SUBJECT: PEKING REBUFFS MOSCOW ON WREATHLAYING COMPLAINT

REF: A. HONG KONG 10458; B. MOSCOW 12610

1. THE TASS STATEMENT REPROTING PEKING'S REFUSAL TO LET SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES LAY WREATHS AT SOVIET GRAVES IN CHINA (CARRIED IN IZVESTIYA SEPT 4 AND PRAVDA SEPT 5) DOES SEEM SOMEWHAT STRONGER THAN THE USUAL SOVIET REPORT ON SUCH OCCASIONS (AS PEKING'S REBUTTAL IMPLIES, REF A), BUT FITS IN WITH OTHER SOVIET TREATMENT OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF V-J DAY (REF B).

2. TO SUMMARIZE, THE STATEMENT SAYS THAT THE SOVIET WAR VETERAN COMMITTEE RECEIVED MANY LETTERS FROM PARTICIPANTS

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AND RELATIVES OF THOSE WHO DIED IN THE WAR AGAINST JAPAN AND

THE WAR TO LIBERATE CHINA. THE SOVIET COMMITTEE ASKED THE CHINESE FOR PERMISSION TO SEND A DELEGATION TO LAY WREATHS "AT THE MEMORIALS TO THE SOVIET SOLDIERS WHO WERE KILLED ON CHINESE SOIL IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE COMMON ENEMY." THE SOVIETS ALSO PROPOSED SENDING A DELEGATION OF "WORKERS DEPUTIES" FROM THE SOVIET BORDER REGIONS WHO, TOGETHER WITH PRC REPRESENTATIVES, WOULD ALSO LAY WREATHS. ON AUGUST 29 THE CHINESE MFA REPLIED WITH A "RUDE REFUSAL," SAYS TASS, WHICH CONCLUDES THAT "BY THIS ACT THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES AGAIN SHOWED THEIR DISRESPECT FOR THE SOVIET PEOPLE WHO, FULFILLING THEIR INTERNATIONALIST OBLIGATION, GAVE UP THEIR LIVES IN THE STRUGGLE FOR THE LIBERATION OF CHINESE TERRITORY FROM THE JAPANESE AGGRESSORS."

3. COMMENT. THE SOVIET AND CHINESE GO THROUGH THIS EXERCISE ONCE OR TWICE EACH YEAR, USUALLY ON SOVIET ARMED FORCES DAY IN FEBRUARY AND ON OTHER SPECIAL OCCASIONS LIKE THIS. ON SOME RECENT OCCASIONS THE CHINESE HAVE ALLOWED THE SOVIETS TO VISIT ONE GRAVE SITE OUT OF THE SEVERAL THE SOVIETS TO VISIT ONE GRAVE SITE OUT OF THE SEVERAL REQUESTED, BUT THIS HAS NOT PREVENTED THE SOVIETS FROM ISSUING A TENDENTIOUS STATEMENT ABOUT THE CHINESE REFUSAL EACH TIME. THIS TASS STATEMENT IS LONGER AND SOMEWHAT MORE SPECIFIC, BUT THE TONE IS THE SAME.

4. THE CHINESE HERE HAVE LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THEY DO NOT MUCH LIKE THE SOVIET COMMENTS ON THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF JAPAN'S SURRENDER, ESPECIALLY THEIR ASSERTIONS OF DECISIVE HELP IN THE LIBERATION OF CHINA. PRC FIRST SECRETARY LIU KUANG-CHIH TOLD UK EMBOFF NASH THAT SUCH ASSERTIONS WERE "INSULTING" TO THE CHINESE, WHO HAD FOUGHT AGAINST JAPAN FOR MANY YEARS BEFORE THE SOVIET ARMY ENTERED THE STRUGGLE. THE CHINESE, SAID LIU, HAD ALWAYS RECOGNIZED THE "HEROIC CONTRIBUTION OF THE RED ARMY AND OF THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP UNDER STALIN." BUT IT WAS "RIDICULOUS" TO CLAIM THAT IT WAS A UNILATERAL SOVIET VICTORY.
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